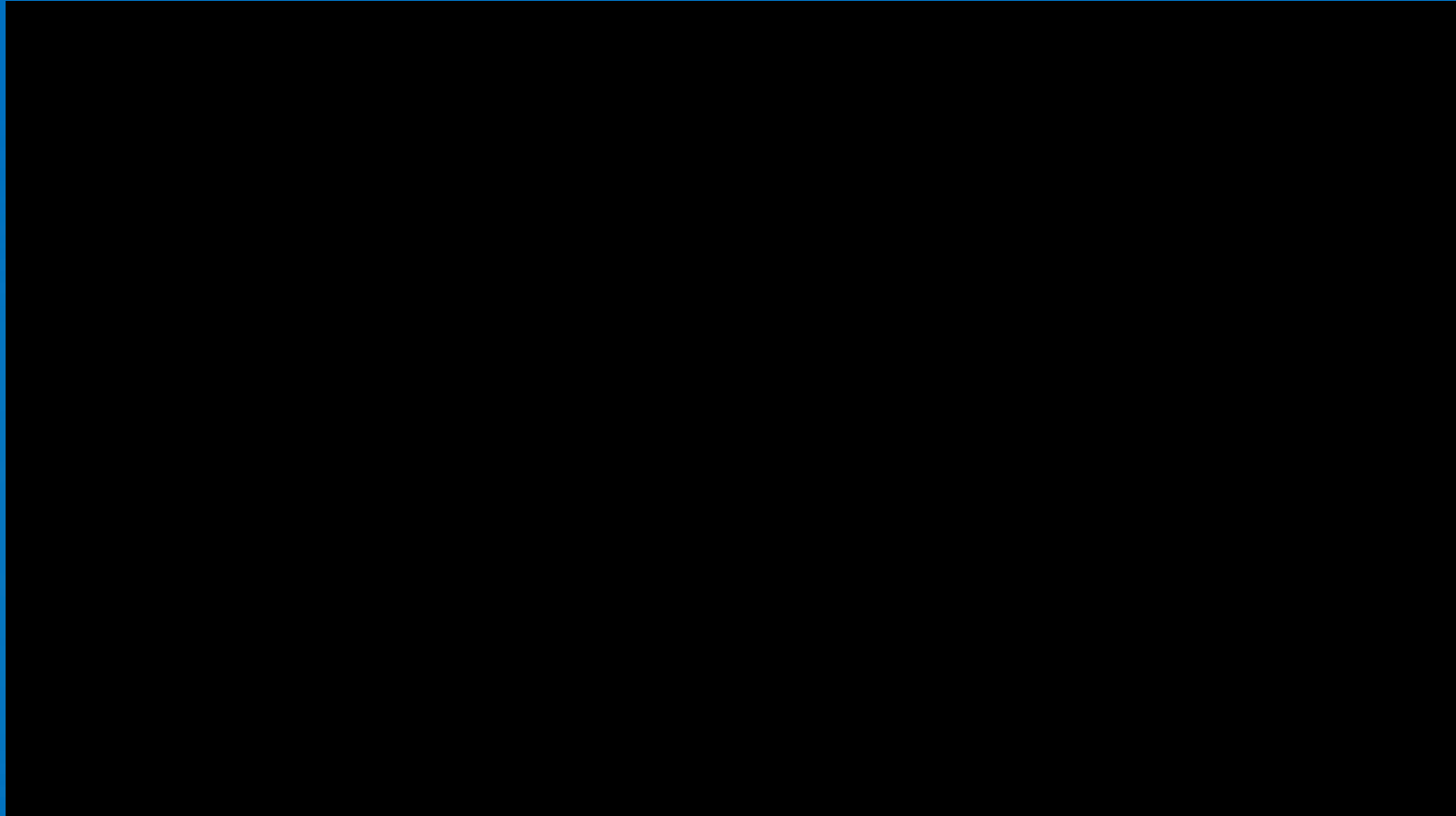


PAULA A. BROWN,
MED, DIRECTOR
OKLAHOMA HEAD
START
COLLABORATION
OFFICE

**THIS is Head Start:
58 Years of Health,
Hope, & Happiness!**

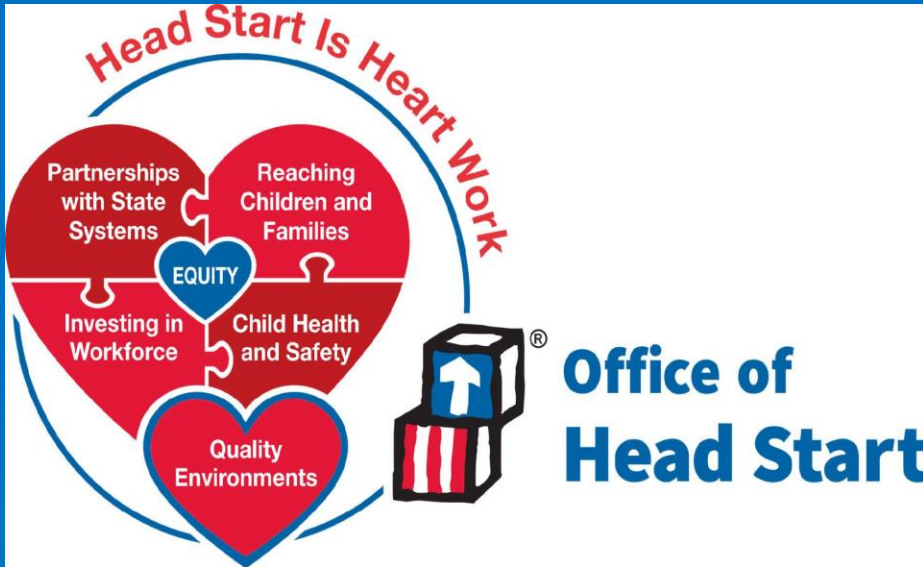
Head Start's Humble Beginnings





My Head Start Story

Office of Head Start Priorities



OHS has an unwavering commitment to **equity, inclusion, and belonging**. Fundamental to this commitment is the belief that all children, families, staff, and communities – including those adversely impacted by persistent poverty, racism, and bias – should have the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential. OHS endeavors to ensure that all Head Start and Early Head Start programs advance and promote equity. This ideal includes a Head Start workforce that is representative of the communities served as well as Head Start programs that intentionally embed the language, culture, and lived experiences of enrolled children and families in their systems and services...

Each program's leadership is key to this effort, as they create conditions favorable for a program culture that facilitates opportunities for staff, families, and community partners to have safe spaces for open dialogue about equity and to develop actionable strategies that promote belonging and address bias in the program's systems and services. More than ever, equity is the foundation of the Head Start program and a lens that informs each of our priorities.

OHS Priorities, cont.

- ▶ **Child Health & Safety** – Reduce/eliminate children's risk of exposure to harm and hazards.
- ▶ **Partnerships with State Systems** – Expand Head Start's capacity to coordinate services with State systems and national programs.
- ▶ **Reaching Children & Families** – Ensuring that Head Start resources are targeted to children, families, and communities of greatest need.
- ▶ **Investing in Workforce** – Supporting a highly-skilled workforce with competitive pay, benefits, and access to supports for staff wellness.
- ▶ **Quality Environments** – Strengthening the key components of infrastructure that assist Head Start programs with operating most effectively.

Updated Collaboration Office Priorities

1. Collaborate with state systems to align early care and education services and supports for children and families prenatally to age five.
2. Work with state efforts to collect and use data on early childhood programs to guide decision-making and improve child and family outcomes.
3. Support the expansion of and access to high quality workforce and career development opportunities for staff.
4. Coordinate with school systems to ensure continuity and alignment across programs, as appropriate.
5. State and regional priorities as needed.

**September is
National
Suicide
Prevention
Month!**

9888

**SUICIDE
& CRISIS
LIFELINE**



Thank you!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT ME: PAULA BROWN,
HEADSTART@OKACAA.ORG OR 405-949-1495